# Chakali language

**Chakali** is a <u>Gur language</u> of Ghana, spoken in several villages in the <u>Wa East District</u> of the <u>Upper West Region</u>. The majority of Chakali are bilingual in Wali. [3]

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## **Phonology**

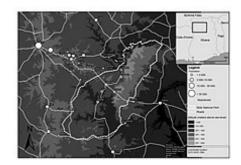
Chakali phonology is typical of Gur languages, with <u>tone</u>, <u>vowel</u> <u>harmony</u>, and <u>labial</u>—velar consonant

#### **Vowels**

Chakali contrasts long and short vowels, as well as <u>advanced and retracted tongue root</u> vowels, which play a role in vowel harmony. While typically treated as a "neutral" vowel for tongue root harmony, /a/ might surface as  $[\alpha]$  following -ATR vowels, but this is not phonemic. Additionally,  $[\mathfrak{d}]$  arises during <u>epenthesis</u> or <u>vowel</u> reduction.

	Fro	ont	Back		
	Unrou	ınded	Rounded		
	-ATR	+ATR	-ATR	+ATR	
Close	I	i	υ	u	
Mid	3	е	Э	0	
Open	á	a			

Cha	ıkali					
Region	Ghana					
Native speakers	6,000 (2003) <sup>[1]</sup>					
Language family	Niger-Congo  Atlantic-Congo  Gur  Southern Gurunsi Western Chakali					
Language codes						
ISO 639-3	cli					
Glottolog	chak1271 (htt p://glottolog.o rg/resource/lan guoid/id/chak12 71) <sup>[2]</sup>					



Chakali speaking villages in Ghana: Gurumbele, Motigu, Sogla, Tuosa, Tiisa and Katua

All phonemic vowels can also appear <u>nasalized</u>, which is often due to the influence of a neighboring <u>nasal</u> <u>consonant</u> or <u>glottal fricative</u>. Nasal vowels do occur phonemically in certain words<sup>[3]</sup>, as demonstrated by near-minimal or minimal pairs:

- /zʊʊˈ/ 'enter', /zʊ̈̈ʊ̈́/ 'laziness'
- /fáà/ 'ancient', /fằầ/ 'do by force'

/tùù/ 'go down', /tū́ū́/ 'honey'

#### **Consonants**

	Labial	Alveolar	Postalveolar/ Palatal	Velar		Glottal
	Labiai			plain	labial	Giottai
Nasal	m	n	'n	ŋ	ŋ͡m	
Stop	p b	t d	t͡ʃ d͡ʒ	k g	kp gb	?
Fricative	fv	s z				h
Approximant		I	j		W	
Rhotic		r~r				

- /t/ surfaces as [r] in word-final or word-medial onset position. [3]
- /k/ and /g/ usually surface as  $[\gamma]$  between vowels. [3]
- All nasals are realized as [ŋ] in word-final position.

### Grammar

Chakali is a subject-verb-object language.

#### References

- 1. Chakali (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/cli/) at Ethnologue (18th ed., 2015)
- 2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Chakali" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chak1271). Glottolog 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- 3. Brindle, Jonathan A. (2017). *A Dictionary and Grammatical Outline of Chakali* (https://zenodo.org/record/344813). African Language Grammars and Dictionaries 2. Berlin: Language Science Press. doi:10.5281/zenodo.344813 (https://doi.org/10.5281%2Fzenodo.344813). ISBN 978-3-944675-91-6.

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